

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 36 wherein the support bar is formed of an elongated bar having at least one passage through the elongated bar and positioned adjacent to one of the first and second ends of the elongated bar;

the elastic retainer is further structured to pass through the passage; and

at least one of the anchors is further structured to be unable to pass through the passage.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 10 wherein the support bar further comprises at least two spaced-apart passages adjacent the respective opposing edges, and wherein at least one of the two spaced-apart passages further comprises a slot through a thickness of the support bar and communicating with an edge thereof.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 10 wherein the support bar further comprises at least two spaced-apart passages adjacent the respective opposing edges, and wherein at least one of the two spaced-apart passages further comprises an aperture formed through a thickness of the support bar and positioned adjacent an edge thereof.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 36 wherein the support member is formed of a material selected from the group of materials consisting of: plastic, Plexiglas, acrylic, wood, and metal.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 36 wherein the support bar is formed of a rectangular plate including the two spaced-apart edges.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 36 wherein the elastic retainer further comprises an elastic material having a slippery contact surface and having the ~~anchoring means~~ anchors formed at first and second opposite ends thereof.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 15 wherein the first and second anchors further comprise an anchor selected from the group of anchors consisting of a loop, a knot, a hook, a slip-on clip, and a crimp-on clip.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The book page holder device of claim 15 wherein elastic retainer further comprises a plurality of ~~the anchoring means~~ anchors formed at one of the first and second opposite ends thereof and spaced at intervals along the elastic retainer.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 36 wherein the means for compacting the support bar is limited to the means for telescoping a first portion of the support bar relative to a second portion thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A book page holder device for holding open the pages of a book, the book page holder device consisting of:

a substantially narrow and rigid elongated support bar structured for supporting an open book thereon across to a spine of the open book with the spine and two opposite covers of the book being arranged adjacent to the elongated support bar, the support bar being formed with two opposing edges spaced apart across a width of the support bar, the support bar ~~further comprising~~ having means for compacting the support bar selected from the group of compacting means consisting of means for telescoping a first portion of the support bar relative to a second portion thereof, and means for folding the first portion of the support bar relative to the second portion thereof; and

a single resilient elastic retainer structured for gripping and holding pages of an open book supported on the support bar with the pages retained substantially against both respective opposite covers of the open book, the single elastic retainer being structured to extend between the two spaced-apart edges of the elongated support bar and having first and second anchors provided adjacent to respective first and second opposite ends thereof, the anchors being structured to secure the first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer adjacent to the respective spaced-apart edges of the support bar.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A book page holder device, consisting of:

a substantially rigid elongated support bar structured for supporting an open book thereon crosswise to a spine of the open book with two opposite covers of the spine of the book laying adjacent to the elongated support bar, the support bar having substantially planar first and second operating surfaces extending between first and second spaced-apart ends thereof; and

an elongated resilient elastic retainer structured for gripping and holding the pages of an open book supported on the support bar with the pages substantially compressed against respective opposite covers of the open book and holding the covers of the open book substantially compressed against the support bar, the elastic retainer having first and second ends anchored to the first and second ends of the support bar operating surfaces adjacent the first and second ends thereof with at least one of the first and second ends of the elastic retainer being releasably so anchored, the elastic retainer being in tension when so anchored to the support bar operating surfaces.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The device of claim 35 wherein the elastic retainer ~~further comprises~~ includes anchors on each of its first and second ends.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The device of claim 21 wherein the support bar further ~~comprises~~ includes a passage formed as a slot communicating with a first edge portion of the support bar adjacent the first end thereof; and one of the anchors is selected from the group of anchors consisting of a loop formed in the elastic retainer, a knot formed in the elastic retainer, a hook secured to the elastic retainer, a slip-on clip secured to the elastic retainer, and a crimp-on clip secured to the elastic retainer.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The device of claim 22 wherein ~~a second one of the~~ passage ~~passages~~ is formed as an aperture passing through the support bar operating surfaces.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The device of claim 23 wherein the support bar further ~~comprises~~ includes at least a second passage formed as a second slot communicating with a second edge portion of the support bar operating surfaces adjacent the second end thereof.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The book page holder device of claim 19 wherein the means for compacting the support bar is limited to the means for folding the first portion of the support bar relative to the second portion thereof.

Claims 26-34 (cancelled)

Claim 35 (previously presented): A book page holder device, consisting essentially of:

a substantially rigid elongated support bar structured for supporting an open book thereon crosswise to a spine of the open book with two opposite covers of the spine of the book laying adjacent to the elongated support bar, the support bar having substantially planar first and second operating surfaces extending between first and second spaced-apart ends thereof; and

an elongated resilient elastic retainer structured for gripping and holding the pages of an open book supported on the support bar with the pages substantially compressed against respective opposite covers of the open book and holding the covers of the open book substantially compressed against the support bar, the elastic retainer having first and second ends anchored to the first and second ends of the support bar operating surfaces adjacent the first and second ends thereof with at least one of the first and second ends of the elastic retainer being releasably so anchored, the elastic retainer being in tension when so anchored to the support bar operating surfaces.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A book page holder device for holding open the pages of a book, the book page holder device consisting essentially of:

a substantially narrow and rigid elongated support bar structured for supporting an open book thereon across to a spine of the open book with the spine and two opposite covers of the book being arranged adjacent to the elongated support bar, the support bar being formed with two opposing edges spaced apart across a width length of the support bar that is greater than a width thereof, the support bar further ~~comprising~~ having means for compacting the support bar selected from the group of compacting means consisting of means for telescoping a first portion of the support bar relative to a second portion thereof, and means for folding the first portion of the support bar relative to the second portion thereof; and

a single resilient elastic retainer structured for gripping and holding pages of an open book supported on the support bar with the pages retained substantially against both respective opposite covers of the open book, the single elastic retainer being structured to extend between the two spaced-apart edges of the elongated support bar and having first and second anchors provided adjacent to respective first and second opposite ends thereof, the anchors being structured to secure the first and second opposite ends of the elastic retainer adjacent to the respective spaced-apart edges of the support bar.